

LIFELONG LEARNERS FIND A HOME AT RICE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES CELEBRATES 45 YEARS OF SUCCESS

SNAPSHOT: RICE UNIVERSITY

EDGAR ODELL LOVETT, PRESIDENT of Rice Institute when it opened in 1912, said about education, "It is a matter of life, the whole span of life." He hoped that at least the few hundred college graduates in Houston at the time would turn to Rice to continue their education about the changing world around them. ¶ Today, Rice University's Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies enrolls more than 14,000 students annually. And it's still growing.

Founded in December 1967 as the Office of Continuing Studies, the school was renamed in 2005 in recognition of what is believed to be the largest endowment gift ever made to a university continuing education program in the country. Mr. and Mrs. Melbern G. Glasscock (Mel and Susie to the staff and faculty) have been taking classes from the school since the 1970s and happily consider themselves to be lifelong learners.

This year, as Rice University celebrates its centennial, the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies turns 45 and continues to enjoy healthy growth and success.

"This is one of the largest non-credit personal development programs in the region," says Dr. Mary McIntire, dean of the Glasscock School, "and we believe the only endowed school of continuing education in the country."

■ A PANOPLY OF PROGRAMS Beginning with Professional Development classes in 1968, Personal Development and Language Programs were added in the mid-70s. Since then the school has developed the Rice Summer School for college students, the Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, the Center for College Readiness, and a degree program for Master of Liberal Studies (MLS).

A Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) as well as the School Literacy and Culture Project have recently been added to its portfolio.

"Education truly is ageless," says McIntire. "Our MLS program draws people from age 20-70. While some students want that degree to advance their careers, many are there just for the enjoyment of learning something new. In fact, we had to change the requirements because people kept taking more courses without ever graduating!"

■ EDUCATION IS GLOBAL Houston is an international city, with people migrating in from all over the world. That's why the school's English as a Second Language (ESL) courses are now bursting at the seams, with more than 200 students in any session. Since 2000, there have been 103 countries represented, and 47 percent of current students are on scholarships from their own governments. The school also offers classes in eight foreign languages.

■ THE FUTURE As is happening across the country, web-based courses are a particular area of growth for the school. Fifteen online programs will be offered this spring, and soon some of those classes can be televised to a larger audience via cameras in the school's new home.



A brand new, three-story, 53,000-square-foot facility will house 24 classrooms, conference rooms, a language center, an auditorium, and a commons area and terrace for events. Thanks to a generous donation from the families of Rice alumni and trustees Kent Anderson and Robert Clarke, and numerous other donors, the Anderson-Clarke Center will soon break ground.

Just in time for tomorrow's lifelong learners. ■

FOR INFORMATION: go to gscs.rice.edu, or call 713-348-4803.

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE BEGINNING AT TOP: MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES GRADUATES, SPRING 2012. PHOTO BY REBECCA SANCHEZ; MARY MCINTIRE, DEAN OF CONTINUING STUDIES. PHOTO COURTESY RICE UNIVERSITY; ESL STUDENTS, PHOTO BY KATHRYN VAN AUKEN; CENTER FOR COLLEGE READINESS. PHOTO BY DAVE ROSALES